



NOAA
FISHERIES

Highly Migratory Species Management Update

ICCAT Advisory Committee
October 2014

Rulemaking/Operations Update

Since the May 2014 IAC meeting:

- Published four proposed rules for 2014 swordfish specifications, Draft Amendment 9, 2015 shark specifications, & International Port Inspection/Transshipment/UVI
- Published two final rules in 2014, bluefin & swordfish specifications
- Announced availability of the Final EIS for Amendment 7
- Oversaw 13 workshops

In 2014, so far:

- Issued 38 EFPs, SRPs, & LOAs
- Issued 5 shark research fishery permits; some changes this year
- Registered 262 HMS tournaments
- ~4,780 people receiving Atlantic HMS News

2014 Bluefin Tuna Quota Specifications

Proposed rule: April 4, 2014 (79 FR 18870)

Final rule: July 7, 2014 (79 FR 38255)

- Allocated the full 2014 baseline quotas to all directed categories, including the Purse Seine category, and the Reserve category
- Used an updated estimate of bluefin tuna dead discards of 140.8 mt that could be expected in 2014
- Accounted for half of the dead discard estimate up front in the specifications process, as proposed
- Allocated 99.2 mt to the Longline category, not including the 25-mt allocation for the Northeast Distant Gear Restricted Area

2014 Bluefin Tuna Inseason Actions

Retention Limits:

General category (large medium/giant):

- January 1 - March 21 = 2; June 1 – August 31 = 4; Sept 1- Dec 31 = 4

Angling category daily retention limits

- Private vessels: 1 school + 1 large school/small medium
- HMS CHB: 2 school + 1 large school/small medium

Closures:

General category “January” fishery: March 21

Angling category Trophy South fishery: April 11

Transfer:

15 mt from Reserve category to Harpoon category: August 8

Other HMS Rulemaking

- **Amendment 7 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP**
 - Notice of Availability for Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) published September 5, 2014 (79 FR 53061), Comments were due on Oct. 6, 2014.
 - Currently working on summarizing FEIS comments and the final rulemaking package.
- **ICCAT Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Proposed Rule**
 - Proposed rule published on September 11, 2014 (79 FR 54247). Comment period closes on October 14, 2014.
 - Would implement ICCAT Recommendations regarding transshipment of Atlantic HMS (Rec. 12-06), port inspection requirements (Rec. 12-07); and Unique Vessel Identifiers (IMO Number; Rec. 13-13).

Bluefin Tuna Purse Seine EFP

- Federal Register notice published June 30, 2014, to solicit comments on an application from a purse seine vessel operator for exemption from the annual incidental purse seine retention limit for large medium bluefin tuna (73” to less than 81”)
- Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) issued with specific terms and conditions for August 1, 2014, to December 31, 2014
- The purpose is to gather data regarding the discards of bluefin tuna measuring 73” to less than 81” in the purse seine fishery

2014 Swordfish Specifications

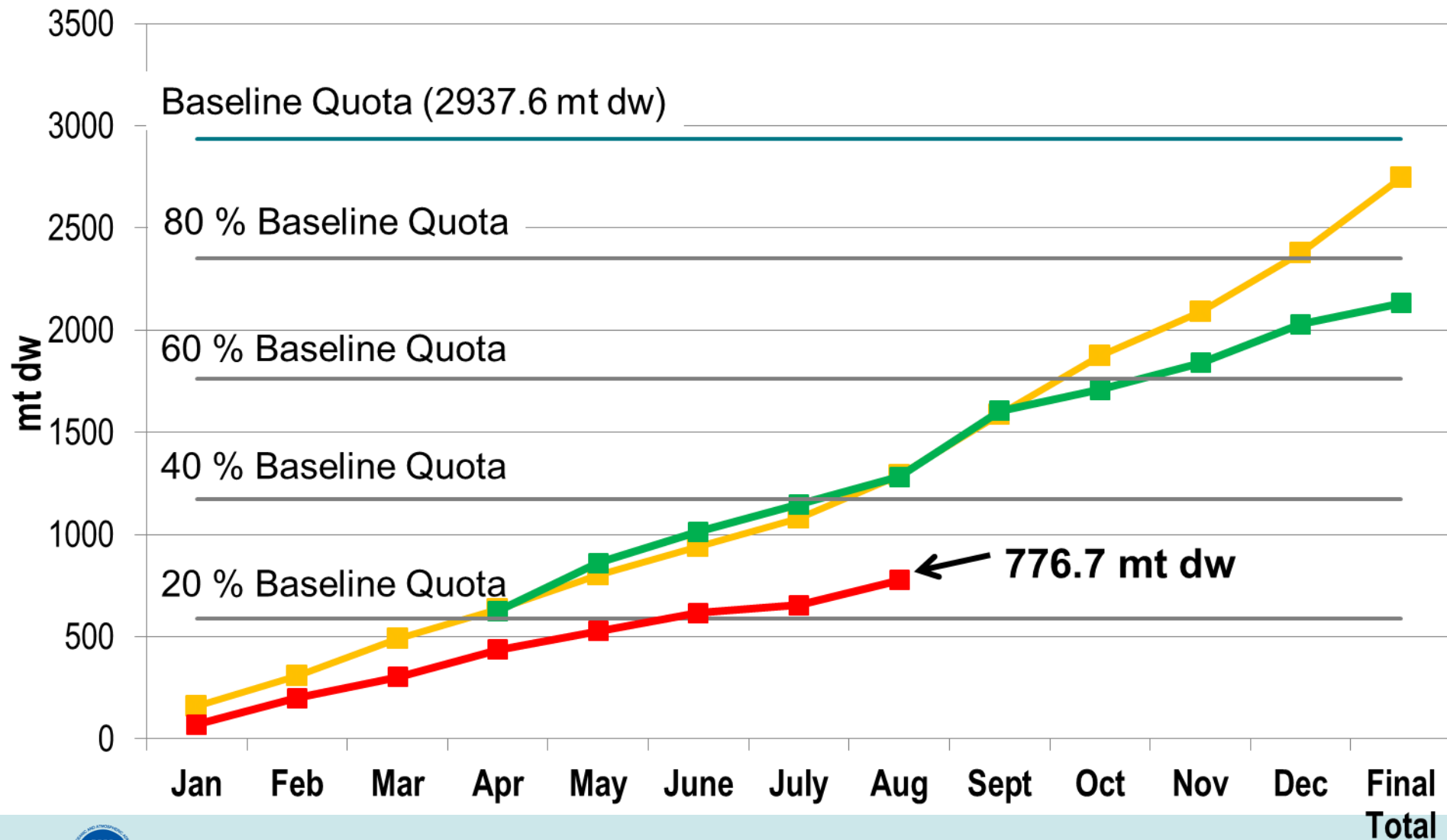
Final rule on swordfish quotas published on August 22, 2014

SWO Specs	2013	2014
North Atl SWO Base	2,937.6 mt dw	2,937.6 mt dw
North Atl SWO Adjusted	3,559.2 mt dw	3,653.2 mt dw*
South Atl SWO Base	75.2 mt dw	75.2 mt dw
South Atl SWO Adjusted	75.2 mt dw	75.1 mt dw

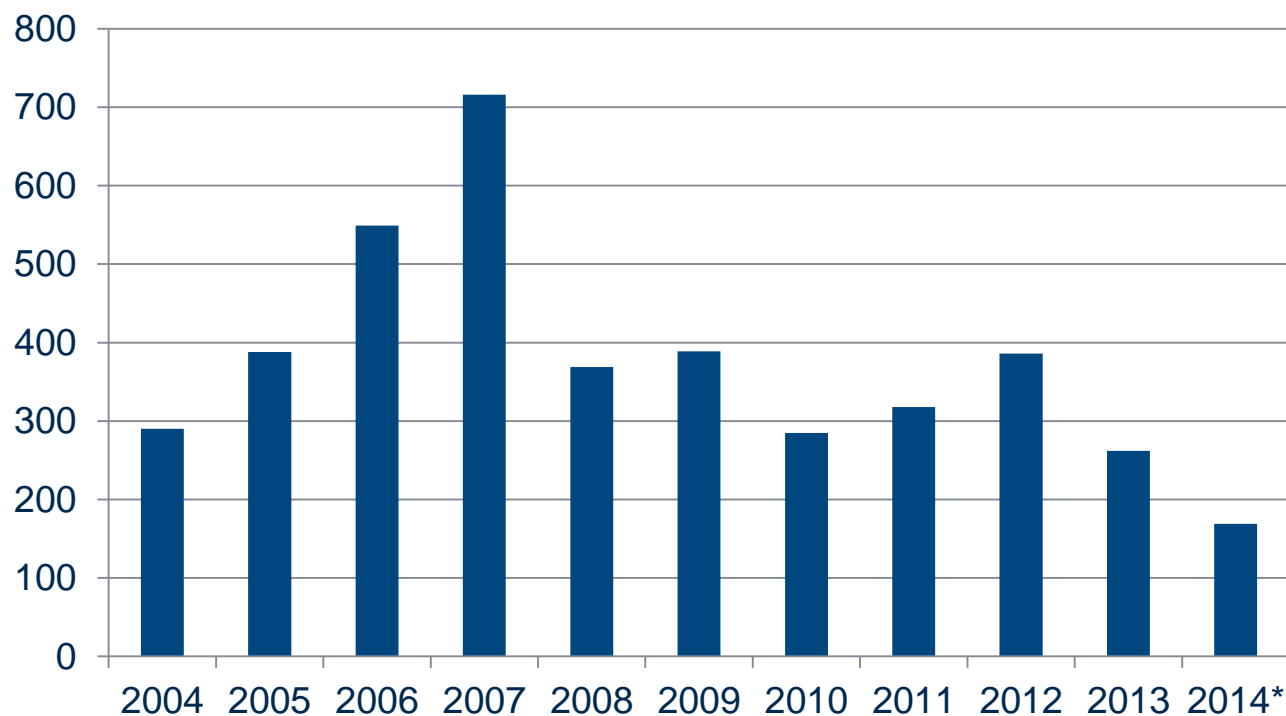
* The 2014 NSW0 adjusted quota increased because ICCAT eliminated the 150 mt transfer to Morocco and implemented a 25 mt transfer to Mauritania

North Atlantic Swordfish Landings

2012 2013 2014

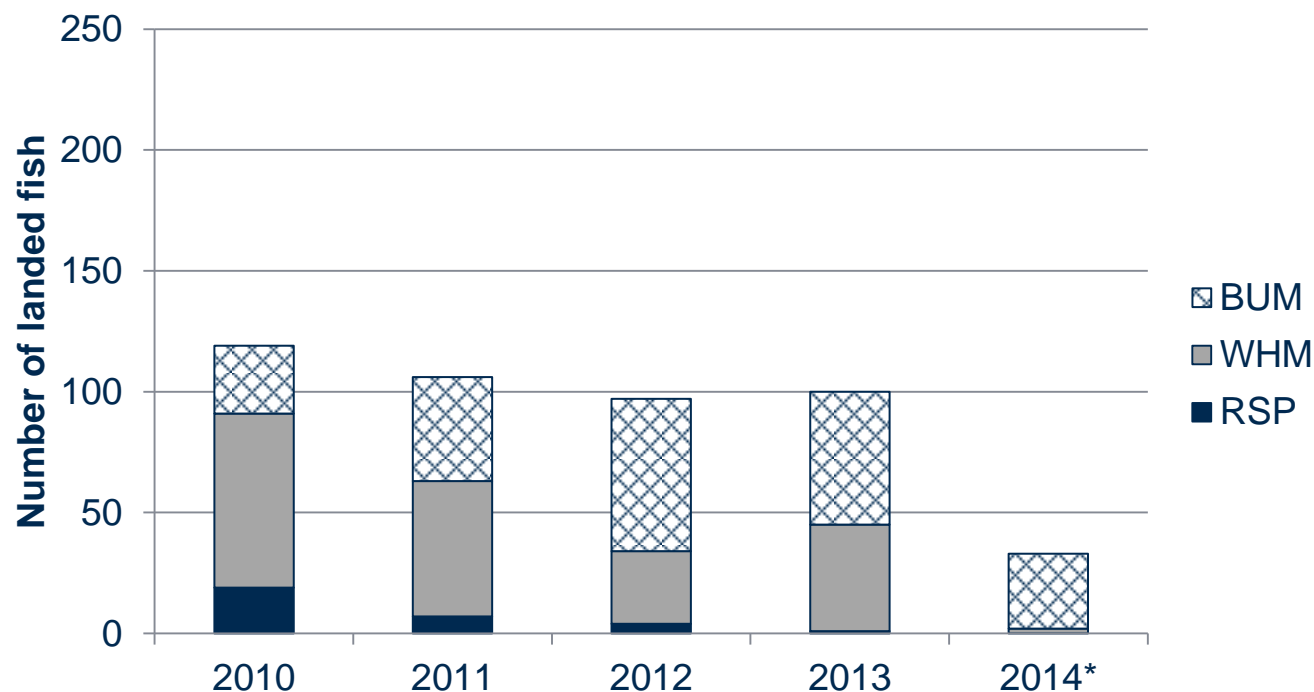


Recreational Swordfish Landings



Year	Non-tournament Landings (number)
2004	290
2005	388
2006	549
2007	716
2008	369
2009	389
2010	285
2011	318
2012	386
2013	262
2014	169

Recreational Billfish Landings

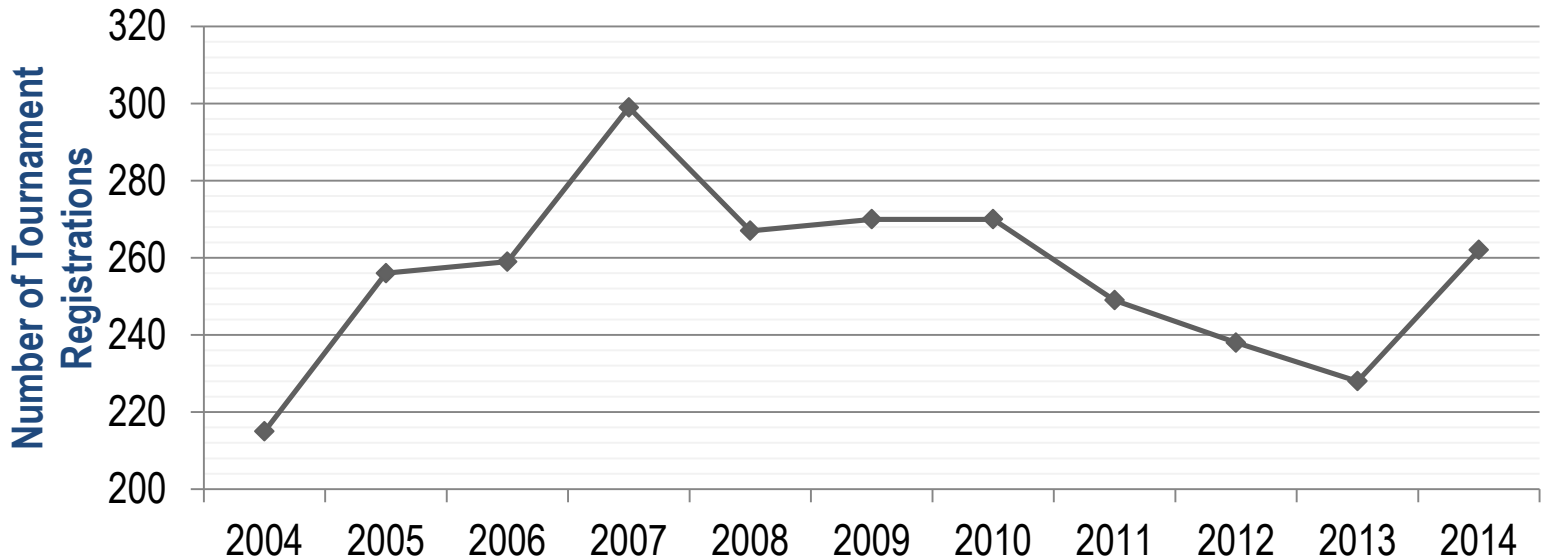


	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014*
Blue Marlin	28	43	63	55	31
White Marlin	72	56	30	44	2
Roundscale Spearfish	19	7	4	1	0
Sailfish	185	166	159	169	81

* Preliminary; HMS Q2 Landings Report, Recreational (non-tournament) Database



Tournaments Update



Program Restructuring – Final Goal: Online Registration and Reporting

- Step 1 underway: Merging HMS and Recreational Billfish Survey databases
- Step 2: Technical guidance and planning

IGFA Tournament Operator Meeting

- At IGFA headquarters, Dania Beach, FL
- September 25, 2014

ESA Update – Pelagic Longline

Pelagic Longline Biological Opinion

- NMFS has requested re-initiation of Section 7 consultation under ESA
- While the mortality rate measure needs to be re-evaluated, overall ability of the RPA to avoid jeopardy was not affected
- During consultation, NMFS will increase education efforts with PLL fishery through protected species handling & release workshops and other outreach, including HMS Advisory Panel, to further reduce sea turtle interactions,
- Through these education efforts, NMFS encourages PLL fishers to:
 - Use whole finfish for bait
 - Avoid threading baits on hooks (putting hook through bait more than once)
 - Use larger hooks (>18/0) as much as possible
 - Avoid fishing with PLL in water $\geq 68^{\circ}$ F when possible

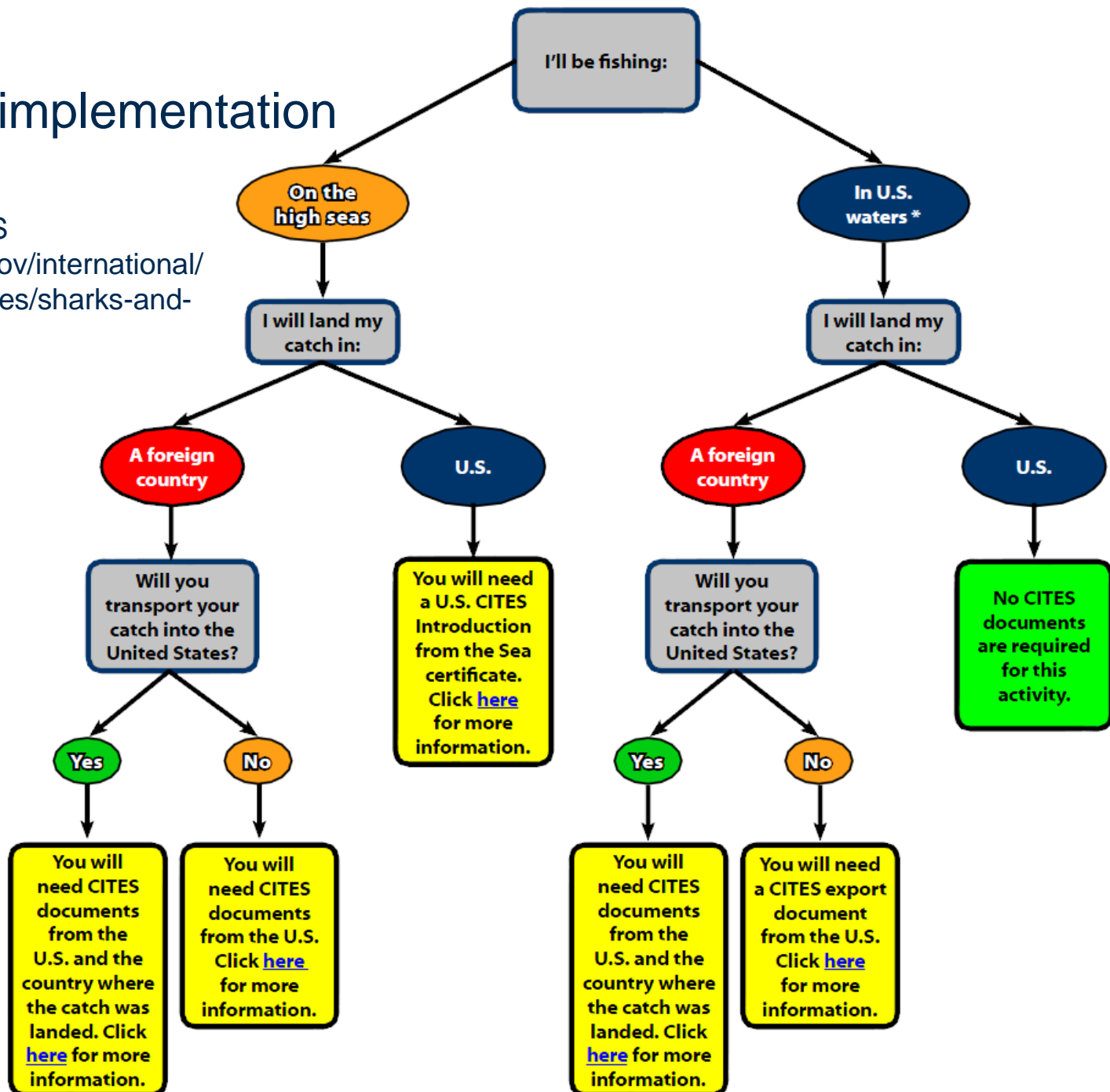
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

- The CITES Appendix II listing for porbeagle; oceanic whitetip; and great, smooth, and scalloped hammerhead sharks is effective **September 14, 2014**
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the lead agency with responsibility for implementing CITES under authority of the Endangered Species Act
- A CITES-listed species may be imported, exported or re-exported from a CITES member State only if the appropriate documentation has been obtained and presented for clearance at the port of entry or exit
- For more information about the CITES process and documentation requirements please go to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website:
 - <http://www.fws.gov/international/permits/by-species/sharks-and-rays.html>

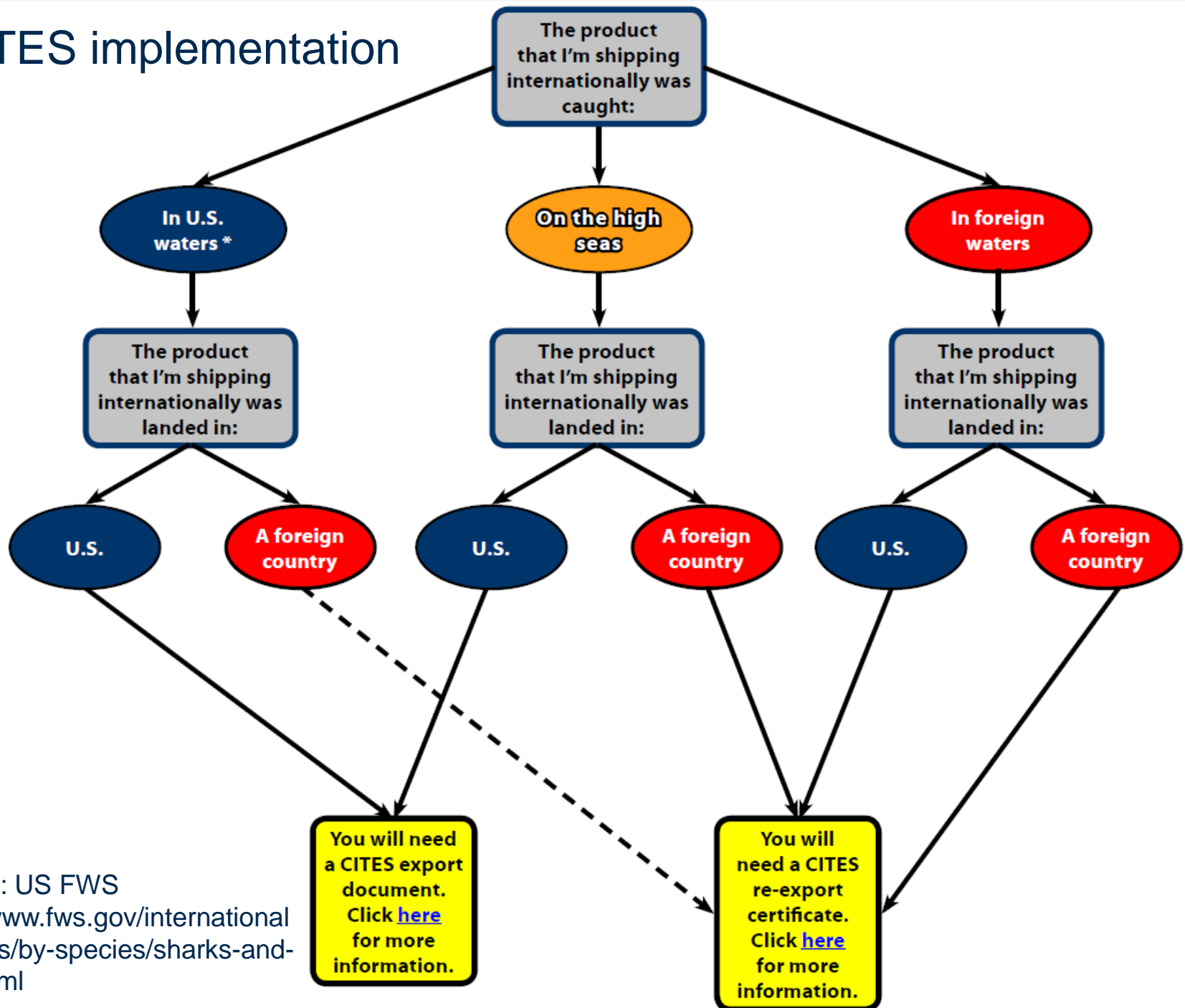
CITES implementation

Source: US FWS

<http://www.fws.gov/international/permits/by-species/sharks-and-rays.html>



CITES implementation



Source: US FWS
<http://www.fws.gov/international/permits/by-species/sharks-and-rays.html>

Operations/Other

- Continued coordination with Councils & Commissions; ASMFC for sharks
- Louisiana greenstick gear study continuing in FY15
- ICCAT submissions: BFT monthly landings, BET/YFT vessel lists, changes to HMS permitted vessels monthly
- ICCAT electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (e-BCD) system in progress; provisions part of International Trade Data System proposed rule - should publish soon
- Caribbean Council closures – Abrir la Sierra, Bajo de Sico, Tourmaline Bank
- Atlantic HMS Electronic Dealer Reporting system- ~486 HMS dealers submit all landings data or weekly negative reports; weekly compliance monitoring; generates monthly shark and swordfish commercial landings reports.
- No current litigation



Other National Rules

- **National Vessel Monitoring System Proposed Rule**
 - Published on September 9, 2014. Comment Period Closes on Oct. 24, 2014
 - Would codify type-approval standards, specifications, procedures, and responsibilities applicable to commercial Enhanced Mobile Transceiver Unit vendors and mobile communications service providers
- **Billfish Conservation Act of 2012 Proposed Rule**
 - Would codify the prohibition of possessing billfish (marlins, spearfish, sailfish) for sale including exemptions for Hawaii or Pacific Insular Areas per the Act
- **Shark Conservation Act of 2010 Proposed Rule**
 - Would implement national fins-attached requirement in all shark fisheries.
 - Amendment 9 would implement limited exception for smooth dogfish
 - Amendment 9 proposed rule comment period ends on Nov. 14, 2014

Questions?

Thank you!